



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

NOVEMBER 2003 — No: 734

CLUB NET 1.905 MHz Sunday 9:30am
 CLUB NET 144.325 MHz Friday 8:30pm
 CLUB NET 145.500 MHz and Down Thursday 7.00pm

CLUB Internet WEB Site:
<http://www.g3src.org.uk>

Hon. Sec. Ray Howells G4FFY
 9 Aultone Way
 SUTTON
 Surrey SM1 3LD
 (020) 8644 7589
 E-Mail: secretary@g3src.org.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.45 FOR 8pm

Normally AT THE T.S. TERRA NOVA, 34 THE WALDRONS, SOUTH CROYDON, CR0 4AZ

"A" MEETING 3rd Nov 2003 TOP BAND MEMBERS EVENING with Martin G4FKK
"B" MEETING 17th Nov 2003 FIX-IT, ADVICE, CHIN-WAG, CLUB STATION + "MOVE-IT-ON"

Chairman	G4XAT Gareth Evans	020-8462 2837
Vice-Chairman	G4WAY Roger Holyoake	020-8689 7089
Treasurer, Liaison & Equipment	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020-8669 1480
Secretary, Membership & Communications	G4FFY Ray Howells	020-8644 7589
VHF Co-ordinator (Co-Opted)	G8IYS John Simkins	020-8657 0454
Publicity & HF Co-ordinator	M1MRS Robert Shepperley	020-8687 0811
Members	G3RJW Graham Marshall	020-8669 8722
	G4FDN Pat McGuinness	020-8643 0491
	G8TB Bernie Wynn	020-8660 7517

Dear Members & Friends

Hello and welcome to the November 2003 newsletter which I am writing late on Wednesday night and if we have postal strike action some of you may get it late! I have busy with my self-employed status as Computer Consultant and also as Sutton Garden Suburb Conservation Area Chairman – we now have a back garden development to fight . . .

For the "A" meeting on Monday 3rd November we are pleased to welcome Martin G4FKK to kick off a members evening on Top Band, with the "B" meeting being held on 17th November; both at TS Terra Nova as usual. We have added the postcode for use with [Multimap](#) or [Streetmap](#) (CR0 4AZ)

NEXT "A" MEETING: Monday 3rd Nov 2003

Top Band Members Evening

We hope there will be a good turnout for this **Top Band Member's Evening**, when we welcome Martin G4FKK to start an evening of talks and presentations regarding Top Band operation. Martin has kindly supplied me with the following:

"Regarding my top-band talk, my plan was to illustrate how it's possible to get a reasonable signal out from a small suburban plot, how to go mobile on 160 without having to use huge aerials, what it's possible to work on top-band and to bring along some examples of bits of gear I've built/used over the years, including a couple of L-matching units."

The evening will continue with contributions from Gareth G4XAT and Graham G3RJW.

If you have any Top Band equipment and can bring it along for demonstration you will be more than welcomed as the aim of this evening is to encourage more of us onto Top Band and learn about members experiences.

NEXT "B" MEETING: Monday 17th Nov 2003 FIX-IT, Advice, Chin-Wag & "MOVE-IT-ON"

The "B" meeting on Monday 17th November will be the regular "Fix-It" and advice evening with the extra twist. If you have a radio item or anything else that you just wish to clear out then bring it along - you never know it may be just what another member is looking for!

The Fix-It section has proved very interesting and successful so please bring along that item that has been giving you grief - the collective heads at the meeting usually come up with something.

LAST "A" MEETING: Monday 6th Oct 2003 Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale

A good turnout was achieved for this excellent evening where at the last moment, Gareth G4XAT took over the role of auctioneer, as Bernie G8TB couldn't make the meeting.

Once again it was surprising what sells and what doesn't. The meeting resulted in a sum of around £90 bring raised for Club funds. It was nice to see the visitors from which we have had some pleasing feedback in that they had an enjoyable evening and bought some good stuff. Some good items still remain and will available at the CATS Bazaar on the 17th November.

Thanks for the excellent evening go to Gareth G4XAT and Maurice G4DDY who were the Auctioneers; and to Peter G3ZPB for providing the accounting desk, on which I assisted.

Below are some pictures that I took with my new mobile phone, so the quality is not that great!!



Maurice G4DDY and Gareth G4XAT



A view of the Meeting

THE CALENDAR SECTION

SRCC and Local Club Meeting Dates:

3 rd Nov	Top Band Members Evening with Martin G4FKK
6 th Nov	Crawley ARC – HARC v CARC Quiz (at Horsham). Meetings normally held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 www.carc.org.uk
7 th Nov	Crystal Palace – Natter night/Club projects/Morse Class @ All Saints Church Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill. 7:30 for 8pm. Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 (Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Fridays) http://www.qsl.net/g3oou/id3.htm
14 th Nov	W&DARS – On Air Meeting @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim M0CON on 020-8874 7456 http://www.wadars.thersgb.net
10 th Nov	CATS VHF Contesting for Beginners & the less experienced – Roger Piper G3MEH. Meetings held @ St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd, Purley 8pm 2 nd Monday's. Contact: Andy G0KZT 01737-552139. cats@briarsa.fsbusiness.co.uk
17 th Nov	Fix-It, Advice, Chin-Wag, Move-It-On
18 th Nov	Bromley & District – "From Rattle to Radio" – Richard G8ITB. Meetings on 3 rd Tuesday's @ Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes – 7.30 for 8. Alan G0TLK 020-8777 0420 www.bdars.org.uk

20 th Nov	Sutton & Cheam RS – An Introduction to VHF/UHF Contesting – Roger Piper G3MEH. Meetings @ Vice Presidents Lounge, Sutton United Football Club, Gander Green Lane, Sutton – 7.30 for 8pm. Sec: John G0BWV 020-8644 9945 www.scrs.org.uk
21 st Nov	Crystal Palace – Surplus Equipment Sale @ All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill – 7:30 for 8pm. Further details from Sec: Bob G3OOU 01737 552170 – http://www.qsl.net/g3oou/id3.htm
25 th Nov	Dorking & District Radio Society – Meetings normally 4 th Tuesdays @ Friends Meeting House, Butterhill South Street, Dorking – opp. Spotted Dog. Details: Jon G0GNA 01306-883718
26 th Nov	Crawley ARC – The History of Police Radio - Jason Wright G6KNE. Meetings held @ Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate Forest, Crawley – 7.30pm. Jerry G0FPI 01293-512932 www.carc.org.uk
26 th Nov	Mitcham & District ARS (Meetings normally last Wednesday of each month) @ ATC Headquarters, Commonside West, Mitcham. Sec: Mike Knott G0WCR 020-8764 4716
28 th Nov	W&DARS – Surplus Equipment Sale @ St. Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon – 7.30 for 8pm 2 nd & last Friday's Details: Jim M0MCN on 020-8874 7456 http://www.wadars.thersgb.net
1 st Dec	"The Good Life" with Gareth G4XAT
5 th Jan 04	"Telescopes – exploding the myths" with Peter G4WPB
2 nd Feb	"Zen and the art of HRO rebuilding" with Brian G8DIU
1 st Mar	Spring Surplus Equipment Sale

SRCC Meetings indicated in **BOLD** with venue of Terra Nova unless otherwise stated.

Rally Calendar, etc:

23 rd Nov	CATS Bazaar – andy@briarsa.fsbusiness.co.uk
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Contest:

8 th Nov 2000 – 2300 UTC	Club Calls Contest – Saturday evening 8 th Nov 2003 from 2000 to 2300 UTC. Freq: 1870 – 1990khz; Mode: SSB; Exchange RS + Serial No + Other Data. The other data is name of Club + "Club Station", "Club Member" or "No Club", as appropriate. A club station must use a callsign, which is specifically issued to a Club or Society, which is affiliated to the RSGB. Use of special club station prefixes such as GX etc by the club station is allowed in this event. There's not much time to think about this one but if anyone is interested to have a go would you let me know – thanks. I am happy to co-ordinate the entry. Ray G4FFY
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CATS BAZAAR 23rd Nov 2003

Andy Briars G0KZT has invited the club to take part in CATS annual radio Bazaar being held at the 4th Purley Scout HQ, behind the Post office in Lion Green Road, Coulsdon on Sunday 23rd November 2003.

Doors open at 10am and close at 1pm. Entry is just £1 per person that includes a free cup of tea/coffee and an instant raffle. There will also be light refreshments available at extra cost (the sausage rolls are always popular).

SRCC will be there . . .

CHAIRMAN MEOW - October 2003



The Greenpower national final came and went, with our best hopes not quite realised but a large amount learnt ready for next year. We managed to move from 12th on the grid to second place within 4 laps (about 16 minutes into the race) but things went downhill from there. Our driver was 'sin-binned' (Greenpowers version of a 'drive-through' penalty) for overtaking under a static yellow flag (which is legal within the rules if done with care, rather than under a waved yellow which is not!) and rather hard not to do when you car is up to twice as fast as some of the other 65 racers on the track! Our batteries went prematurely flat (we thought) but in actual fact showed us that our instrumentation was not telling the truth and that we should have cross-checked their reading with the paperwork! We finished the 6-hour race with no mechanical failures (having addressed all those to date with success!) and a final position of 20th, a 108 miles and a bronze award under our belt.

The difference in using an electric motor compared to an engine is not obvious at first, an engine making more power the faster it goes and our motor making most power at half its no-load speed. Although our cooling system can keep the motor alive at that point (burnt out motors are a common sight and smell!) our batteries cannot sustain the 50 amps needed to operate at this point. The long-term plan is to have an electronic solution to our 'engine' management problem, leaving our largely non-technical drivers to get on with their job of driving. We did come within less than a second of setting the fastest lap, but in the end, last years winner won again, breaking the all time distance record in the process, making it now 160 miles in the 6 hours. Not bad for a 1/3 hp wheelchair motor! For a full race report, point your browser at www.greenpower.co.uk/

The autumn junk sale was a success, with yours truly stepping in as auctioneer as Bernard was unable to make it at the last moment. A hard evening's work, but as usual, many bargains were bought (or sold??) and more than a few albino moths were evicted from rarely opened wallets!! Thanks to all who donated gear to the club for sale and equal thanks to those of your who bought the bargains!

For the November meeting Martin (G4FKK) is giving a talk about Top Band. If time permits another two members have material relating to their own Top Band set-up to share with you also. Now all licensees have access to HF, there will soon be no reason not to join us on the Sunday morning net!

At the moment I'm sitting in the afternoon sun (on Sunday, 12/10), wishing it were spring already. Although tidy, the vegetable garden has given up the bulk of its produce, leaving leeks, parsnips, Jerusalem artichokes and some winter squash to see us through until the spring (oh, and enough hops to brew a beer or two!).

The local squirrel has eaten even the sunflower heads!
Gareth G4XAT

Members News

- Ernie Le Sueur G4CEQ - Email Address

This notice is somewhat late but we have been advised that Ernie has the following E-mail address of ernest.les@virgin.net

- Martin Farley G3DFD - Telephone Number

This notice is also late but Martin has advised of a new telephone number as: 01883 62 3232

- Graham G3RJW & Dawn Proud Grandparents

Graham G3RJW and Dawn now proud Grandparents when daughter Fiona gave birth at 7am on Wednesday 29th October to a beautiful baby girl. She has been named Erin and weighed in at 7½lbs. Congratulations.

- Richard Sutton M3UYP

Richard is now the proud owner of M3UYP following his success at the recent Bromley Club Foundation course. Congratulations Richard and thanks to Bromley for being able to hold such courses. They are looking for volunteers to assist for future courses – see Club Calendar for contact details.

CROP GATHERERS OF THE BLETCHLEY PARK MILL

By Maurice de la Bertauche

A previous article "Achtung ! Feind Hoert Mit" (The Enemy is Listening) published in a previous issue of the "Radio Bygones" magazine, and other local club newsletters, concentrated, almost exclusively, on German short wave Morse activity, procedures and traffic during World War Two. Based upon the writer's experiences' at a top-secret War Office "Y" Group wireless intercept station at Beaumanor Park, Near Loughborough, it said little about the organisation or personalities.

Civilian wireless interception operators at Beaumanor were called Experimental Wireless Assistants. They ranged in age from the seventeen and a half years of the writer in 1942, up to retirement age. In pre-war days many of the older members had been businessmen, artists and amateur radio enthusiasts. Some had been telegraphists with the Post Office and were seconded to "Y" group. Many of the younger members had been recruited from grammar schools and trained by the War Office; the writer himself held a Certificate in Wireless Telegraphy by examination.

The extensive grounds of Beaumanor Park were surrounded by a high fence, the inauspicious entrance was guarded by armed Military Police and signs gave frightening warnings of the penalties for illegal entry or, even worse, the taking of photographs. Any EWA billeted in nearby Woodhouse Eves merely walked along the back lane, climbed a stile and walked into the set room.

On entering the main gate a tree-lined gravelled road led to a courtyard used by the M.T. (Motor Transport) section. In the courtyard, for some unfathomable reason, was a huge ship's figurehead carved in the image of Cornwallis. On passing the manor house itself one came to a long row of huts on the right used, it was understood, by the Intelligence Section. The last hut contained "Control" which thrived on what Mrs. Thatcher in later years came to describe as "Healthy Competition". Control was staffed by a handful of "Seven Day Men", that is, unlike EWAs who rejoiced in a day off once a week, had volunteered to work seven days a week - a total of 56 hours - and regarded themselves as an elite. They were all totally devoted, dedicated, highly experienced wireless operators who probed the airwaves diligently to unearth any German operator hiding under QRM (interference) or, perhaps, transmitting with a barely audible signal from a tank set in the Western Desert.

Once Control located a German station, they would continue monitoring it with close attention until a check had been made that an interceptor operator somewhere in Beaumanor, or another "Y" station was covering it. If the station was previously unknown the Direction finding Network would be alerted and bearings taken to determine the transmitter's location, the frequency would be measured carefully and arrangements made for a set-room operator somewhere to continue recording it and maintain observation. It is understood that, by late 1943, any unknown station would also be recorded using equipment similar to that used for a motion picture sound track so that individual characteristics of the transmitter could be analysed and comparisons made with similar material to glean useful intelligence information.

Continuing on along the path one came to a brick building disguised as a country cottage. Beyond the entrance vestibule, containing coat hooks and smelling of damp clothes, one could detect the smell of ozone from the thermionic valves used in short wave receivers and amplifiers in the set-room. There was a perpetual babble of Morse traffic in the background; this always struck the writer as reminiscent of soup boiling. Down the centre of the set-room was a walkway with the Supervisor's table at the end having several telephones. Above the desk was a large clock; on either side of the walkway were short wave wireless receivers in pairs facing the Supervisor.

Between them was a wooden console in which intercepted traffic was placed to be collected by a member of the A.T.S. who despatched it immediately via a pneumatic tube to the teleprinter room for onward transmission to Bletchley Park.

Before entering the set-room itself, the EWA was allocated a set and told his activity. If one relieved an operator who was recording a message, the person being relieved would turn up the volume control, slip off his headphones, whilst still recording the message, hand the headphones to his relief, who at an appropriate moment, would continue writing down the message putting on the headphones prior to slipping into the chair for another eight hours on duty less a short break.

Most EWAs were billeted in Loughborough, about four miles from Beaumanor; an industrial town that at the time always seemed to have a smoky haze in the streets. It was one of those places where if you stopped smelling soot it was because you'd started smelling gas from the local gas works. Although compelled to take a stranger into their home, the people of Loughborough were very kind, despite shortages of food everyone was considerate and in wartime days driven by a sense of purpose. The writer's billet was located in a road backing on to the LNER (London & North Eastern Railway) main line and goods yard, now understood to be a preserved railway line. It was a noisy place, especially in summer when one had been on night duty and trying to sleep with the window open. Every now and again a fussy steam shunting engine would give a loud, bellowing Huff, puff, puff, followed by the clink, clink, clink, clink of colliding wagon buffers along the whole line of wagons being assembled. Almost immediately the shrill peep of a whistle and another Huff, puff, puff, clink, clink...

EWA's worked eight-hour watches 10.00pm - 6.00am; 6.00am - 2.00pm; 2.00pm - 10.00pm and travelled from Beaumanor by private bus which left and returned to Loughborough Town Hall, via Quorn, collecting anyone billeted outside the town along the way. One entered the bus to be met by a fug of cigarette and pipe smoke and a prevailing atmosphere of depression before slumping down in a seat to try to snatch a few more moments of sleep. Invariably the atmosphere was doom and gloom when going on duty and everyone was tired and miserable on the way back. Coming off duty at 2.00pm on a morning watch was always most boisterous and pleasurable. Older EWAs would smile and converse, the younger element such as the writer were all very juvenile, given to singing, frequent wrestling matches, or the occasional Rugby match up and down the aisle and over the seats using some victim's shoe.

On duty in the set-room no one was supposed to converse unless it was about German wireless activity. As the writer had attended a visual signalling course organised by the Royal Navy, he devised a method of conveying clandestine messages. A quick snap together of first finger and thumb signified "dot", placing the first finger and thumb together firmly and dipping them from the wrist conveyed a "dash". The letter 'U', for example, would be snap, snap dip, similar to operating an invisible Morse key. As with light signalling at sea, it was amazing what incredibly fast Morse speed could be achieved. Obscured from the Supervisor behind a short wave receiver, when not busy, one could have fairly protracted conversations with friends, several sets distant, usually about one's family back home, or planning some free-time activities.

Afternoon watches were the most hated. One could not do much in the morning and it meant having an early midday meal; on returning late in the day it was too late for any social life or relaxation. Night duty was tolerable if one was busy but interminable if there was no wireless activity. The clock crawled around slowly and one just sat disconsolately. Occasionally an excruciatingly, sadistic, childish trick was played on any EWA who dozed off. Some diabolical fiend - probably one of the younger members - would tiptoe over to the sleeping victim's set position, withdraw his headphone jack, plug in his own headset and search around to locate some insufferable signal, preferably a noisy teleprinter. He would then remove his headphone jack, wind up the set volume control to maximum and replace the victim's headphone plug in its socket so that it was not quite making contact. After returning to his own set position the perpetrator would say, sotto voce; "Hey, Hey (naming the victim) your groups working". The sleeper would rear up with bloodshot eyes like Black Beauty discovering that the stable is on fire. If the victim showed signs of regaining consciousness too quickly, the perpetrator could hot up the situation by scribbling frantically on a message pad saying with a reproving tone "He's on traffic!" At this point the victim would panic, see that his set dial lights were working, conclude that after a visit to the loo he had failed to plug his 'phone jack in satisfactorily and spontaneously slam the jack plug home and spend the rest of the shift scraping his brain off the ceiling and walls. Meanwhile any EWA in range would be like a little Smash man going, "Tee, hee, hee". The beauty of the

whole cruel deception was that invariably the victim had to suffer a sneaky feeling of gratitude, because going to sleep on duty was serious enough, but missing traffic as well, was the most heinous crime of all.

Being on watch could be mind numbingly boring. The writer recalls having to keep watch on a frequency for some weeks after the group using it seemed defunct. Apparently they had been on Lampedusa Island and intelligence for some reason remained suspicious. We were constantly probing, searching and checking if allotted a specific frequency with particular attention on the hour, or half-hour when groups tended to call one another. Operators ordered to go on search could tune to any frequency. Listening to a commercial broadcast was a perilous occupation as the Supervisor had a switchboard on his desk wired up to each receiver in the set-room so that he could snoop on one's activities. Pour passer le temps (To pass away the time), with a cautious eye on the Supervisor, we studied some subject or other from a crib kept in one's pocket, or just meditated. "Wilk" an older EWA who had been a commercial artist and created the Fairy Soap Baby, still used in advertising, would draw constantly. He prepared the cover and cartoons for the monthly B.M. Staff magazine. Some of the operators wrote poetry and circulated anything they considered worthy. One older operator of a religious disposition wrote a stark warning to youth:-

Oh! Young Man pray to be kept whole
From bringing down a weaker soul:
Your minute's joy so neat in doing,
May be a young girl's door to ruin.

After passing surreptitiously around the set-room his offering was returned. Some sharp Philistine had added:-

The door to wandering up and down,
A painted tart at half-a-crown.

One young EWA cycling back to his billet from Beaumanor one day pedalled carelessly past a halt sign where a minor road joined a main road. A watchful policeman keeping observation pounced. The EWA was summonsed and fined with, it was rumoured, an alternative of imprisonment. Although this may sound far-fetched with present-day attitudes towards Law and Order, it must be remembered that in those days criminals could anticipate the dubious pleasures of birching, hard labour, penal servitude and hanging, all deterrents possibly long overdue for reinstatement.

In late summer 1944 the writer was transferred to the War Office "Y" group direction-finding network to be based at the twin stations' at Chart Sutton and Sutton Valence in Kent. After leaving Loughborough with his worldly goods and arriving later in the day at Morden underground station, en route to his home in Banstead, Surrey, for a few days before going to Kent, the writer found that the last 164 Bus had long gone so he set off on foot feeling strangely liberated. It was a peaceful, starry, moonlit night; everywhere was blacked out and no other person was about. On reaching Rosehill, some mile-and-a-half South of Morden, two bright parachute flares came floating down, drifting eastwards in the direction of St. Helier; no air raid warning had sounded for it was one of those rare, sporadic raids the Luftwaffe mounted occasionally. The writer snuggled down in the shelter of a dwarf wall before getting up after the short raid and continuing south towards Sutton. Suddenly a police car pulled up and two suspicious police officers questioned the writer before taking him to Sutton police station; and searching his belongings. After a cup of tea they took the writer home to Banstead, still a good two miles away and remained in the police car outside his home until he had knocked, been recognised, and admitted. This incident conveys some idea of the suspicions' still entertained at that time about enemy agents operating in Britain. It was a fitting climax to life as a Crop Gatherer of the Bletchley Park Mill stationed at Beaumanor and the start of a happier life in Kent.

Our thanks go to Maurice for allowing us to reproduce this article and to Derek Willson M0BGX, Editor of the Mitcham & District ARS Newsletter, for putting Maurice's memories to paper.

SIGNING OFF:

That's it for this month - if I have missed anything I give my apologies and hopefully remember it next time.

Anyway in closing I hope that many of you and guests will attend next Monday's (3rd Nov) Members Top Band Evening at TS Terra Nova.

Ray G4FFY

73 and 88

Posted: 31st Oct 2003

Arrival Time is dependant upon Postal strikes!